

Soldiers



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

May 2002

Firefighter University

Kandahar's
Supply Hub

More
Than a
Patch

New Hot Topics
Pullout

Soldiers

May 2002 Volume 57, No. 5



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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SOLDIERS IN

Afghanistan

4 Kandahar's Supply Hub

When transports bearing vital supplies land at Afghanistan's main airport, soldiers ensure the offload goes like clockwork.

8 Coalition Team Clears Land Mines

Mines litter the areas of Afghanistan in which coalition forces operate. Clearing the explosives is a vital — and potentially deadly — mission.



FEATURES

14 More Than a Patch

Unit patches are a symbol of pride for those who wear them, and creating the distinctive insignia is part art and part industry.

18 Memories of "BK"

Last summer's departure of the last American soldiers from Bad Kreuznach, Germany, did not dim the mutual friendships forged over five decades.

22 Helping the Stork

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Stork Nest Program offers expectant mothers a broad range of specialized services.

24 Firefighter University

Located at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy produces firefighters for all of the nation's military services.

40 Marking the Distance Home

Common since Roman times, mile markers have always pointed the way home for deployed servicemembers.

43 A Tank to Remember

A vintage M3A1 tank found in Haiti will soon take its place among other valued relics at the 1st Armored Division Museum.

44 Dealing with Death

Across the Army, specially trained mortuary-affairs soldiers — most of them Reservists — deal with death when tragedy strikes.



Get your copy
at page 9

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Feedback
- 10 Briefings
- 32 Focus on People
- 34 Postmarks
- 36 Sharp Shooters
- 38 Legal Forum
- 48 Around the Services



Front cover:

Students at the joint-services Louis F. Garland Fire Academy move in to douse the flames engulfing a simulated helicopter. — Photo by Steve Harding

◀ 24

From the Editor

Perhaps the most enduring image of the attack on America is that of firefighters defiantly raising the American flag atop the rubble of the World Trade Center. Often overlooked and usually underappreciated, it is the firefighter we turn to for salvation when disaster strikes. Join Steve Harding for an inside look at the forging of firefighters in "Firefighter University."

Another often overlooked and underappreciated profession is that of the logistician. From Afghanistan, SSG Alberto Betancourt showcases the backbone of the war on terrorism, the 101st Airborne's 626th Forward Support Battalion, in "Kandahar's Supply Hub."

Whether it's the screaming eagle of the 101st or the shield of the 1st Cavalry Division, few military symbols evoke as much pride and emotion as the shoulder-sleeve insignia. In "More Than a Patch," Beth Reece takes us on an evolutionary journey from an artist's idea to a soldier's shoulder.

Finally, Heike Hasenauer's "Memories of 'BK'" chronicles a community's fond farewell to soldiers and their families as the Army ends its five-decade presence in the German city.

John C. Suttle

Superb, But Inaccurate

YOUR magazine continues to provide superb news and articles for us soldiers.

To assist you in your quest for excellence, I offer two spelling changes in your March article "We Were Soldiers..."

First, "Fort Totten," headquarters of the 77th Regional Support Command, is really Fort Totten. Second, the unit you referred to as the "63rd Reserve Support Command" is actually the 63rd Regional Support Command (the USAR has 12 regional support commands and no "reserve support commands").

*Chaplain (COL) Doug Lee
via e-mail*

DOF on Target

A LETTER in the March Feedback section ("Purple Heart or DOF?") questioned whether the new Defense of Freedom medal is a "medal we really don't need."

This is because, in the writer's view, the Purple Heart could have been awarded to civilians injured in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

Unfortunately for the letter writer (name withheld by request), the website from which he got his information is simply wrong. From 1943 until 1997 civilians were, in fact, eligible for the Purple Heart — and about 100 received it. In 1997, however, Congress passed legislation restricting the Purple Heart to uniformed personnel.

This, of course, explains exactly why the Defense Department created the Defense of Freedom Medal — because the Purple Heart was no longer available to recognize the sacrifices made by our civilian brothers and sisters.

*COL Fred Borch
via e-mail*

Patriotism in Stone

I READ with great interest and enjoyment your March article "Repairing the Pentagon." Your story was very well written and informative. I am also thankful for the chance to see photos of the work in progress on the Pentagon — images I have not seen on TV.

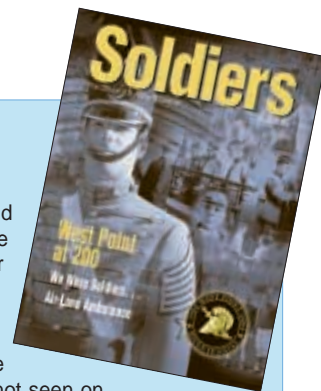
Part of the reason I'm so interested in this subject and so pleased to see it featured in your magazine is because my husband, Danny R. Wood, works at the limestone mill where the stone is being quarried and fabricated to replace what was destroyed on Sept. 11. My husband is also a first sergeant in the Indiana Army National Guard. I am extremely proud of both his professions.

All of the mill's employees exhibit a strong sense of patriotic pride in sending their work to Washington, D.C. They have even inscribed their names on a special cornerstone to be used in the rebuilding.

So many of us have a desire to help rebuild what was torn down that terrible day, and these men actually have the privilege of doing so. And they are aware of what an honor it is.

Thank you for your coverage of this story. It is important to let the world know that no matter what the terrorists demolish, America will simply rebuild it — stronger.

*Micki Wood
via e-mail*



Ambulance Facts

I WANT to give you a heads-up about an inaccurate statement made by a solder quoted in the March article "Air-Land Ambulance."

SFC Steven Seitz, a platoon sergeant in the 557th Medical Company, stated that his unit is the only 40-vehicle M997 ground-ambulance company in the active Army. That statement is not exactly accurate. There is also the 514th Medical Company, which also maintains 40 M997 ground ambulances. The 514th belongs to I Corps' 62nd Medical Brigade at Fort Lewis, Wash.

I just wanted to ensure that

you, your staff and especially your readers are aware that there is more than one of this type unit serving on active duty.

*CPT Jeffery L. Mosso
via e-mail*

Bad Language, or PC?

WITH regard to LTC Shea's letter in the April issue, someone should tell him to stop being such a prude and overly PC. Is he trying to create a tempest in a tea pot? I really cannot believe you would give him the print space you did, much less highlight his comments like you did.

Your handling of the "We Were Soldiers" article was

tasteful and right on. While Galloway's comment may have been a little too colorful, it was not over the edge nor did it require LTC Shea's comments. Galloway could have said worse, and within the context of the article it was way too small to notice.

As a military historian who has interviewed many veterans, I can tell you that we try to get the raw, unencumbered remembrances of the people who were there. It may be crude and graphic, but it is honest and instructive. It is also an example of our most cherished freedom — the freedom of speech, which is really the freedom to be ourselves.

"We Were Soldiers" is an outstanding tribute to those who fought and died in Vietnam. I do not see how you "failed to uphold the Army Core Values" in the article. If anything, your article showed integrity (one of

those values) by not "artfully editing" Galloway's words.

LTC Thomas B. Tennant,
USAR
via e-mail

More Than Shores

IN the April 2002 Focus on People you state that the Military District of Washington Engineer Company at Fort Belvoir, Va., helped "shore up the Pentagon" after the Sept. 11 attack so that rescue workers could more easily reach the wounded and dead. The MDWEC didn't build shores for *other* rescuers, we *are* the rescuers!

The company is the only urban search and rescue (US&R) unit in the Army. During the initial operations at the Pentagon there were four US&R teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; MDWEC was the fifth US&R team.

Yes, we shored the building, but that is just one of the many tools used during rescue operations.

CPT Aaron C. Barta
via e-mail

Posters and Kudos

THANKS for all the staff's hard work at Soldiers Magazine. It has always been, and continues to be, one of the most positive, informative and upbeat publications about life in the Army.

I can honestly say that I have never read an issue I didn't enjoy and learn something as well.

Keep up the great work!

LTC John Karaus
via e-mail

Good Job, Eh?

I'M currently serving with the Canadian army contingent in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Our integration with the American forces here has been a great success, and I have made a lot of new friends. It has also been my pleasure to read your magazine, and I am really impressed with it.

Would it be possible to get a subscription to Soldiers?

Thanks for your help, and keep up the good work.

CPL John Allison
Kandahar, Afghanistan

Thanks for the kind words. We've put the subscription information in the mail to you, along with several back issues.

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



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Kandahar's Supply Hub

Story and Photos by SSG Alberto Betancourt

Kandahar's Supply Hub



As Kandahar's clear skies slowly transformed into a kaleidoscope of orange, yellow and purple, SPC Gerald Gorman knew it was ...

"show time!"

"I could have twice as many forklifts and still not have enough," said LTC Thomas Pirozzi, commander of the 626th FSB.



(Above) Local Afghans help 101st Abn. Div. soldiers erect tents on the grounds of Kandahar Airport.



(Left) SSG Noveless Wimberly ground-guides PFC Moedjirah Vandellie, whose forklift bears supplies to be distributed to the soldiers of the 101st.

"However, we earn our real money at night."

The 10,000-pound Atlas forklift Gorman drives is a vital commodity for the support team.

AS Kandahar's clear skies slowly transformed into a kaleidoscope of orange, yellow and purple, SPC Gerald Gorman knew it was "show time."

Gorman, a forklift operator with the 101st Airborne Division's 626th Forward Support Battalion from Fort Campbell, Ky., is one of the many soldiers in Afghanistan who offloads supplies from the cargo planes that arrive in a steady stream once the sun goes down.

"We work 24 hours a day — four hours on and four hours off," he said.

"I could have twice as many forklifts and still not have enough," said LTC Thomas Pirozzi, commander of the 626th FSB. "This piece of equipment is integral in getting as many supplies as possible on the ground to complete the mission."

Besides keeping the airport's runway clear while unloading supplies from incoming Air Mobility Command C-17s, Pirozzi's soldiers must distrib-

CPT Daniel Carrera, commander of HHC, 2nd Bn., 187th Inf., was scheduled to give up command two weeks before his troops deployed to Afghanistan.

ute the supplies among the different units inside the compound.

He said at times the mission is challenging because of the difficulties of getting the supplies into the country. Yet, the great working relationship his soldiers have with the division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team keeps the mission flowing.

"We're an integral part of the 3rd BCT," he said. "We train with them in garrison, in the field and when we're deployed."

Pirozzi said his soldiers were well trained to support Operation Enduring Freedom's mission in Afghanistan.

At Fort Campbell, his battalion spends six weeks supporting the installation and 12 weeks preparing for deployment. The cycle ends with another intensified six weeks of training.

"My soldiers do this all the time," he said. "Our tactical mission is not much different from our garrison mission — the locations just change."

Besides unloading planes and distributing food, barrier material, medications and ammunition to the units, the 626th is also responsible for purifying water.

"It's one thing to produce, purify and store the water," Pirozzi said. "The real challenge is getting the water to the soldiers' canteens."

PV2 Damien Franklin, a water-purification specialist with the 801st Main Support Bn. at Fort Campbell, is attached to the 626th in Afghanistan. He is one of the four soldiers responsible for the water-purification mission.

He said two 600-gallon Reverse



Soldiers



The constant flow of supplies into Kandahar keeps the 101st soldiers busy 24 hours a day.

Osmosis Water Purification Units are used in a three-step process to purify water drawn from local wells.

"The water comes out cleaner than bottled water," Franklin said. "We've already purified more than 75,000 gallons."

Supporting the 626th's extensive logistical mission are Task Force Rakkasans soldiers from Headquarters and HQs. Company, 2nd Bn., 187th Infantry.

"We are the liaison between line soldiers and the support battalion," said SSG Irving Williams, HHC's support-platoon sergeant. "We know what our infantrymen need and we make sure they get it. When they see our soldiers approaching their bunkers, they smile because they know we have what they need."

Williams said that because the defensive operation in Afghanistan is huge, an equally large amount of lumber and wire was needed.

CPT Daniel Carrera, HHC's commander, said his philosophy is to have the battalion's soldiers perform their mission "without worrying about supplies."

Carrera, who was scheduled to relinquish command of the unit two weeks prior to its deployment to Afghanistan, pleaded for the opportu-



SSG Irving Williams, platoon sergeant for HHC's support platoon, greets local Afghans who will help him download supplies. Some locals are permitted to work inside the Task Force Rakkasans' compound.

nity to accompany his soldiers on this mission.

"I've been their commander for almost two years," he said. "I wanted to be with them during this important mission. I'm very proud and grateful I got the chance."

Meanwhile, silhouetted against the

evening sky, Gorman stacked another pallet of supplies. As darkness formed a blanket over Kandahar, the stockpile grew.

"When the sun comes out we'll clear this up," said Gorman. "And tomorrow evening we'll pack it up again." □

Coalition Team Clears Land Mines

Story and Photos By
SSG Alberto Betancourt

Officials estimate that more than 10 million mines are scattered throughout Afghanistan. Clearing them from areas in which coalition forces operate is a vital — and potentially deadly — mission.



DUST clouds reached high into the sky as large metal spikes rotating from the mine-clearing flail dug deeper into the orange dirt outside Afghanistan's Kandahar International Airport.

According to the United Nations' Mine Action Program for Afghanistan, landmines and unexploded ordnance contaminate some 724 million square meters of land. Officials estimate that more than 10 million mines are scattered throughout the country. One of the most heavily mined provinces is Kandahar.

Since January, Norway's demining team has been clearing mines inside the Kandahar airport's perimeter, occupied now by elements of the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky.

"So far we've found hundreds of mines inside the airfield," said Norwegian Maj. Prygve Enger, commander of the 16-man demining team. "The

Blue-painted rocks mark a mine field near Kandahar's International Airport.



Giant dust clouds surround the Norwegian demining team's flail as it digs deep into the earth, clearing land mines within the perimeter of Afghanistan's Kandahar International Airport.

mines have not affected the airflow into the airport. But with so many people on the ground, we have to continuously clear out new ground to expand the area."

Enger said his team works on foot, using poles and metal detectors to find the mines. Once they identify a contaminated area, they send in the flail.

"This hard and dry terrain is a challenge for us," he said. "The barbed wire and craters around the area also create challenges. We must plan our missions very carefully."

He said it's safe working inside the flail. When the machine detonates anti-personnel mines, the operator doesn't feel them or see them because of all the dust the machine kicks up. When an anti-tank mine detonates, the operator feels it slightly and sees flames shoot



Norwegian Cpl. Dan Gspedal watches as SSG Troy Winders of Co. C, 326th Engr. Bn., prepares to ground-guide a bulldozer operator.

up into the air.

"This is a dangerous job," said Enger. "But we follow all the necessary safety procedures."

Two 101st Abn. Div. engineer platoons have been working with the Norwegians.

SSG Troy Winders of Company C, 326th Engineer Battalion, said the Norwegians cut a safe path with their mine flail. The American engineers follow with a bulldozer, flattening the

ground to lay protective fence around the perimeter.

"We're continuously expanding the perimeter of the airfield," he said. "The fence is the last stop for any intruder."

Winders said they work from sunrise to sunset and, because of the mine threat, never work at night.

"This is a great learning experience for us," said Winders. "I think the Norwegian team is also learning a bit from us. The bottom line is we're making things safe for our soldiers. That's our ultimate goal." □

Two 101st Abn. Div. engineer platoons have been working with the Norwegians.

Soldiers clear mines in Kandahar

Briefings *Compiled by SAC Lisa Beth Snyder*

AMERICA and the War on Terrorism

AT press time approximately 28,000 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers had been called to active duty and continued to provide security at airports and other facilities around the country.

Pentagon officials honored 39 employees of the Pentagon's Real Estate and Facilities Directorate with the Medal of Valor for their actions on Sept. 11.

The Pentagon Victim's Fund, administered by Army Emergency Relief, has received \$4.4 million. As of Feb. 25, AER is no longer accepting donations.

On Feb. 13 a soldier died after a heavy piece of equipment fell on him at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

On March 2 a special forces soldier died during the early hours of Operation Anaconda.

On March 4 seven U.S. military personnel — four of them soldiers — died in two helicopter incidents in Afghanistan. The soldiers were killed in a firefight with Al Qaeda and Taliban forces soon after their MH-47 Chinook landed.

Since March 1 more than 2,000 U.S., Afghan and coalition troops have been working to destroy a pocket of Taliban and Al Qaeda forces operating near the Afghan town of Gardez.

SPC David Marck Jr.



COL Frank Wiercinski, commander of Task Force Rakkasans in Afghanistan, administers the oath of re-enlistment to SSG Stanley Richardson, SPC Armando L. Acevedo Jr., SPC Adran M. Hollar and SSG Scott M. Weaver.

PFC Jeremy Guthrie



During his visit to Afghanistan, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, took time to talk to 10th Mountain Division soldiers at Bagram.

Master Sgt. Keith Reed, USAF



Soldiers at Kandahar Airport hurry to load ammunition onto a waiting CH-47 Chinook helicopter, which then took off to deliver the cargo to troops fighting near Gardez.

PFC George Allen



Bill Hullender, AAFES manager, sets up soft drinks and snacks in preparation for Afghanistan's newest post exchange, at Kandahar International Airport.

SPC David Marck Jr.



10th Mtn. Div. soldiers participating in Operation Anaconda prepare to dig into fighting positions after a day of reacting to enemy fire.

Homeland Security Advisory System

PRESIDENT George W. Bush created the Homeland Security Advisory System so federal, state and local authorities, law-enforcement agents and the American people know of and can respond to terrorist threats as quickly as possible. Officials will use a color-coded system — conditions green, blue, yellow, orange and red — to identify the level of terrorist threat.



Low Risk

- ▶ Refine and exercise protective measures.
- ▶ Assess vulnerabilities and take steps to reduce them.



Guarded Risk

- ▶ Check communications with emergency response and command locations.
- ▶ Review and update emergency response procedures and provide the public with necessary information.



Elevated Risk

- ▶ Increase surveillance of critical locations.
- ▶ Coordinate emergency plans among all jurisdictions.
- ▶ Implement contingency- and emergency-response plans.



High Risk

- ▶ Coordinate military and law-enforcement security efforts.
- ▶ Prepare to move or disperse workforce.
- ▶ Restrict access to essential personnel.
- ▶ Implement precautions at public events.



Severe Risk

- ▶ Mobilize emergency and security groups.
- ▶ Monitor and possibly redirect or constrain public transportation.
- ▶ Increase or redirect personnel to address critical emergency needs.
- ▶ Close public facilities.



The National Symphony Orchestra will be among the attractions at the National Memorial Day Concert.

Washington, D.C.

National Memorial Day Concert Set

ARMED Forces Radio and Television Service and Public Broadcasting Service stations will air the National Memorial Day Concert May 26 at 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The concert, live from the U.S. Capitol, will honor the victims and heroes of Sept. 11 and mark the 60th anniversary of the Bataan Death March.

The event will be hosted by World War II veteran and actor Ossie Davis and will feature

fellow World War II veteran and actor Charles Durning, plus color guards and the National Symphony Orchestra. — *Devillier Communications*

Washington, D.C.

New Incentives Set For Unaccompanied Tours

TWO programs have been revised to help soldiers returning from Korea and other unaccompanied tour locations.

The Deployment Stabilization policy and the Homebase and Advanced Assignment Program, known as HAAP, have been expanded, the Army G1 recently announced.

After completing a tour in Korea or other dependent-restricted area, soldiers will be exempt from operational deployments for six months at their new duty stations. Before the

most recent revision, the deployment-stabilization policy only affected soldiers who had participated in operations-other-than-war deployments for at least 30 consecutive days.

Personnel officials said the stabilization program — which applies to both officers and enlisted personnel — was expanded to allow soldiers time to reacquire themselves with families and readjust to their new home stations. It also rewards soldiers for arduous periods of duty in which they were separated from family members, officials said.

The HAAP expanded March 1 to specialists and corporals who have re-enlisted at least once. HAAP participants can return to their previous duty stations after completing an unaccompanied tour or getting orders to their follow-on sta-

tions before leaving the country.

Expanding of HAAP to selected specialists and corporals will not apply to soldiers currently in Korea or those placed on assignment instructions before March 1, officials said.

For more information go to <http://perscomnd04.army.mil/milpermsgs.nsf/WebFrameSet?OpenFrameSet>. — *Army News Service*

Washington, D.C.

Military, Civilian Long-Term Care Insurance

THE Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies to provide a long-term medical care benefit for all federal employees

and retirees.

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term medical care in a nursing home or the patient's home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves or their families, including parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only themselves and their spouses in the program, according to information on the program's Internet homepage, www.opm.gov/insure/ltc.

An early enrollment period

is scheduled through May 15, followed by an open-enrollment season beginning July 1. Applicants may be required to answer health-related questions, provide medical records or be interviewed personally to be eligible for the insurance.

Rates will vary based on the amount of coverage selected, the type of inflation protection chosen and the current age of the person being covered.

Medicare, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program are not de-

signed to cover long-term care, officials said. They also emphasized the government pays no part of the premiums or benefits. — *American Forces Press Service*



Washington, D.C.

Army Ten-Miler Registration Begins

ARMY officials are accepting registrations for America's largest 10-mile race, the Army Ten-Miler, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20, in Washington.

The Army's premiere running event, it will take partici-

Web News

"Soldiers Forum" to Give Troops Voice on Web

SOLDIERS worldwide may submit stories, commentaries and other articles to the Army News Service under a new program called "Soldiers Forum."

The best of the articles will be posted on the "ArmyLINK News" Web page at the end of each week and sent to Army newspaper editors at installations and commands worldwide for their use as commentaries.

The purpose of the program is to "give soldiers a voice on ArmyLINK," said COL Stephen Campbell, chief of the Army's Command Information Division at the Pentagon.

If soldiers cite problems, suggested solutions should be included in the commentaries.

Campbell said the letters "can't just be 'peaches and cream.'" The forum should be more than just an outlet for laudatory comments, and should provide insightful discourse on subjects of interest to the entire Army.

He said the forum should include reflections and recommendations regarding everyday Army life, including duty in places like Afghanistan.

Observations about Family Team Building programs, the NCO Education System or Common Task Training are just a few examples of relevant topics.

More controversial topics affecting soldiers and their families that might also be discussed include drug abuse, domestic violence, street gangs, suicide prevention, retention, single-parent soldiering, operational tempo and personnel tempo.

Letters and articles of interest should be sent to the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, ATTN: SAPA-CI (Soldiers Forum), Rm. 2B720, 1500 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310-1500, or e-mailed to arnews@hqda.army.mil. — *ARNEWS*

Recruiting Update

Army Contracts Recruiting

MILITARY veterans began suiting up in civilian attire to recruit for the Army this spring.

The civilians are recruiting for the active Army and reserve component in Jackson, Miss.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Dayton, Ohio; throughout eastern Delaware; Tacoma, Wash.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Wilmington, N.C.; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Granite City and Homewood, Ill.

Two companies — Military Professional Resources Inc. and Resource Consultants Inc. — have been recruiting for the Army's reserve component since 1999. They're currently looking for additional recruiters who have been honorably discharged from the Army.

Besides undergoing initial training — which will include such topics as enlistment eligibility, current enlistment incentives and U.S. Army Recruiting Command policies and procedures — recruiters will receive additional training as necessary, Hunter said. They will also receive annual refresher training to stay abreast of Army and USAREC policies, he added.

Government contracts were awarded to the companies in accordance with the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, said Douglas Smith, the public affairs officer for U.S. Army Recruiting Command. — *ARNEWS*



The field of contestants at the Army Ten-Miler will be limited to 18,000 — and registration is first come, first served.



Zahoor Ahmed, owner of Rainbow Embroidery, mends a broken thread on one of the multihead sewing machines used to produce the beret flash.

More Than a Patch

Story by Beth Reece
Photos by Paul Disney

UNIT patches are like family photographs. "Shoulder-sleeve insignia, or SSI, give soldiers something to connect to, a symbol of the years they spend in their units. Just the sight of SSI inspires pride," said Pamela Reece, of the Technical and Production Division of The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH) at Fort Belvoir, Va.

SSI have graced soldiers' right shoulders since the 81st Infantry Division adopted the wildcat patch in 1917. The insignia grew so popular during World War I that heraldic programs were created to set design standards and policy for wear. Today, TIOH maintains specifications for more than 800 SSI.



Designer Edith Tumaneg creates patch patterns six times the patch's original size to specify the number and direction of stitches.

"When we create a new patch, our goal isn't to represent unit history or individual personalities. Instead, we offer a symbol that will have lasting value," Reece said.

Universal images with timeless appeal are used to illustrate units' branches. The patch of a signal unit, for example, would likely include a globe and a lightning flash.

Conception

Invention of new unit insignia begins with a request to the Heraldic Services and Support Division. Authorization is outlined in AR 670-1, "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia," but generally, units with more than 500 soldiers are authorized their own SSI.

Illustrators in the Creative Heraldry Division sketch designs for the unit's approval. Though designs are fine-tuned on computers, Sarah Leclerc begins with doodles.

"Designs come from my own feelings and background, along with the guidelines for how a patch should be," Leclerc said. "Most of the time it's like pulling a rabbit out of a hat."



Digitizer James Bewighouse computerizes the patch's patterns so they can be read by the stitching machines.

Though units sometimes offer drafts of the patches they envision, TIOH prefers they don't. "Their suggestions tend to be a little simplistic and busy," said Stanley Haas, chief of TIOH's Technical and Production Division. "Just because you can draw something doesn't mean we can manufacture it," he tells customers.

Patches must be visually clean yet tell a whole story. "We have to think simple and boil it down to the very essence of what the unit does. It's a lot harder than using all the elements of a unit's makeup," Leclerc added.

Final designs define exact sizes and shapes, as well as background and foreground colors. Computers have simplified the process, but illustrators still rely on their artistic abilities to lend meaning and balance to patches.

Creation

From TIOH's computerized drawings, contractors such as Rainbow Embroidery in North Plainfield, N.J., turn visions into reality. They create a preparatory design known in the industry as a "cartoon" — a pattern six times the patch's actual size — which specifies the numbers and directions of stitches needed to create a multidimensional effect.

Cartoons are then computerized so patterns can be read by stitching machines, and swatches are made for TIOH's approval. "We look for quality, for clean stitching, whether the patch is too bulky, and whether the background shows through the stitching," said Rainbow's owner, Zahoor Ahmed.

Patches are limited to 99 standard-sized colors. Because quality is nonnegotiable, Reece said, the number of stitches used to embroider military patches is higher than most manufacturers ordinarily use.

"We use about five stitches to every one commercial stitch. Otherwise, our patches wouldn't wash well and would wear out so fast that soldiers would need about four patches while assigned to a unit instead of just one," she said.

Ahmed, who has worked with TIOH for almost 25 years, claimed that quality embroidery is a fading commodity in America, with the rise of

overseas manufacturers who offer cheaper products in less time.

"This is a very serious, highly skilled art that requires creativity and technical know-how," he said.

To the Soldier

While cartoons are finalized, TIOH alerts the Soldiers Systems Directorate and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service that a new item is soon to be released. This speeds procurement because quota requirements can be researched and ready by the time TIOH provides a final technical data package to the Defense Supply Center-Philadelphia, which contracts out for mass production of military items.

Units can also seek local procurement of patches if the manufacturer has been certified through TIOH.

Haas said almost all military insignia are mass produced on Schiffli machines, which are so accurate some versions can stitch in 120 positions per inch. "The machines are amazing. It's not unusual to go into a manufacturer and see one that was built in 1902 but is still cranking away," he said.

Creating a new SSI normally takes about three months from conception to production. This record was broken last year when the Army transitioned to black berets.

Under a very short Pentagon-mandated deadline, Rainbow Embroidery completed the beret's blue flash in three days. "I wanted to help give the Army the finest flash so soldiers could wear it with pride," Ahmed said, boasting a thank-you letter from SMA Jack L. Tilley.

Unit patches seem to possess an allure that needs little underscore from designers or manufacturers. Some soldiers keep them long after departing their units, and many veterans sew

When the Army needed a flash for the black beret last year, Rainbow Embroidery's Zahoor Ahmed created computerized patterns of the blue, star-trimmed flash in just three days.



Military patches are embroidered one color and one layer at a time. Manufacturers use small, tight stitches to ensure the patch withstands time and repeated washings.

their patches onto jackets or baseball caps. World War I and II patches are regarded today as collectibles — some so rare they carry four-digit price tags.

"People who never served in the military are interested in our patches," Reece said. "Every time I see the 25th Infantry Division patch, I think of my Dad, who served with the 25th in Vietnam. They're more than just a uniform decoration — they remind us of people and memories." □



Memories of "BK"

Bad Kreuznach, Germany



Beate Streicher, at her home in Bad Kreuznach, has many fond memories of the Army and of the many soldiers she knew and worked with over the years.

A 2nd Armored Division soldier helps out during a Thanksgiving celebration given in Bad Kreuznach for German civilians.

In April 1945 German women bring food to some of the thousands of German POWs held by the 8th Inf. Div. near Bad Kreuznach.



(Above) Soldiers and tanks of the 2nd Armored Division roll through Ahlen, Germany, on April 2, 1945.

(Right) U.S. soldiers take in the sights during a visit to Bad Kreuznach in April 1954.



Last summer's departure of the remaining American soldiers in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, brought to an end five decades of mutual friendship.

Story by Heike Hasenauer

WHEN the 1st Armored Division's headquarters moved last summer from Bad Kreuznach, Germany, to Wiesbaden, 36 miles away, it culminated the phased departure of the division and marked the end of a 50-year U.S. Army presence in the spa community of about 40,000 German citizens.

For the Americans who lived and worked at Rose Barracks, Marshall Kaserne and Hospital Kaserne, the move meant leaving behind close friends and favorite places, according to several long-time residents of the area, among them 85-year-old Beate Streicher.

The first contact Streicher had with U.S. soldiers was when the 2nd Armored Division marched into Bad Kreuznach while the city was occupied by the French, following World War II. With a background in French and English, which she studied at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, in 1939, she had worked as an interpreter for the French governor of the city for seven years.

When the Americans came to "BK," as they fondly referred to the city, she became the liaison between the French and Americans. And when the French left in 1951, she applied for a position as a German-language teacher at the American's elementary school.

"The kids said at that time, 'We don't need German. We don't want to learn from Nazis,'" said Streicher, whose husband, a German soldier in the war, was listed as missing in action and was never found. But despite the initial animosity of her students, she managed to teach a half-dozen classes daily, without books.

"After one year of teaching, I couldn't believe what happened," Streicher said. "At Christmastime, I received many presents. Gradually, the Americans realized we were not all Nazis."

A broader friendship between the Germans and Americans,

"U.S. soldiers were part of the community, and we were like a close-knit family," said Boris. "It's terrible for me that the Americans have left. I feel a great loss."

however, grew only gradually, over about five years, Streicher said. For the Germans who lived in the city that had been heavily bombed and where dozens of people died, time was critical in healing the wounds of war.

Other changes to life as they knew it required additional adjustments.

U.S. soldiers initially moved into town requisitioning homes, apartments, hotels and businesses. The Kurhaus, a landmark facility used for cultural events and celebrations, became the U.S. Officer's Club, Streicher said.

"At first, the Americans controlled the heat in our homes, too," she said. "They didn't want us to have a part of their heating system, because the U.S. Army paid for it."

Adding to the early tensions between former enemies was the Germans' seemingly hopeless struggle early on to rebuild their shattered economy. Local citizens hesitated to invest in industry of any kind for fear no one besides U.S. soldiers wanted to live

in BK; military exercises were conducted at Kuhberg, an area that became a training site, and U.S. helicopters often flew over the town, Streicher said.

U.S. soldiers were forbidden to socialize and shop in the community until the mid-1960s, said Streicher, so the Germans and Americans initially had little knowledge or understanding of each other.

After five years' teaching, Streicher began working as the 8th Inf. Div. community-relations officer, which gave her a first-hand look at how the Army operates. As the commanding general's interpreter, she accompanied him on maneuvers, bouncing around training areas in a jeep and traveling by helicopter to civic functions throughout Germany.

It was largely through her that both sides inched closer to understanding and friendship.

"The local people were so impressed that my picture often appeared in the newspaper with the Americans," Streicher said, "that more German women wanted to learn about the Americans. They helped form the German-American Women's Club. And, gradually, the Americans constructed sports fields and helped rebuild in other ways."

"In turn, we notified

German civilians return to their homes as U.S. troops push further into Germany in March 1945.

the newspapers to publicize the good things U.S. soldiers were doing in BK," said Streicher, who in 1977 left her community-relations position to teach Gateway and Headstart courses in the American community. It was a job she held until 1987.

"I have stacks of letters from soldiers," Streicher said. "They wrote things like: 'We love Germany now that we know you,' and 'Thank you for allowing us to share your culture.'"

"When my mother died, the general's wife sent food for my family," she said. "Americans do that sort of thing."

As many as 6,000 soldiers were stationed in Bad Kreuznach at that time, Streicher said. "It was a golden time, when a dollar could be exchanged for four Deutsch marks. You can't imagine how many Mercedes and Porsches were here," she said.

≡ A Historian Remembers

Richard Walter is a historian and reporter for the Rhein Zeitung in Bad Kreuznach, where he's lived since 1957.

During the Ardennes Offensive, in December 1944, German troops tried unsuccessfully to push the Americans back from Germany's borders in Belgium and Luxembourg, he said. U.S. troops continued to advance, breaking through the German

The 7th Army commander inspects the 2nd Arm'd. Div. honor guard at Bad Kreuznach in August 1952.

lines at Westfeld and the Eifel.

They were on one side of the Mosel River, the Germans on the other side, waiting, Walter said. Then the Americans advanced from the Mosel to the Nahe River, near Bad Kreuznach.

"I saw the first American tanks approaching Bad Kreuznach at 11 a.m. on March 16, 1945," said Walter, who was a lieutenant in a German rocket-artillery unit that had fought at Normandy and in the Ardennes before passing through Bad Kreuznach while retreating from the American advance.

There weren't many tanks, and they just sat at a crossing and waited, Walter said. Then they went around Bad Kreuznach from both sides.

"For two days, nothing happened,"

Walter said. "The German soldiers had all left the city on March 16, after planting explosives on all the bridges and blowing them up." On March 18, the Americans marched into the city unimpeded.

In the weeks that followed, a small contingent of U.S. soldiers searched for Nazis throughout the area, Walter said. Suspects were taken to a

detention center in Idar-Oberstein. After Germany capitulated, on May 10, 1945, many German POWs arrived in Bad Kreuznach from the front lines, Walter said.

There was a detention center for German POWs near the former 1st Arm'd. Div.'s headquarters, Walter said. Later, another larger center was established between Bad Kreuznach and Bretzenheim.

On July 10, 1945, when Germany was divided into U.S., British, Russian and French zones, Bad Kreuznach was in the French Zone, so the Americans left and the French occupied the city until mid-1951.

When the Americans returned in 1951, kasernes were quickly built and hundreds of soldiers and their families began arriving. One-fifth of the city was composed of Americans.

"They were self-sufficient; they brought their own food and built everything they needed, from hospitals and schools to stores and movie theaters," Walter said.

The U.S. Army put its stamp on Bad Kreuznach, said Walter. "The friendships Americans and Germans shared will live in our hearts for many years to come."

≡ The City Pays Tribute

Today, the barracks, housing areas

and playgrounds once alive with activity at BK, are devoid of U.S. soldiers and families, "but the U.S. Army's presence will never be forgotten," Streicher said.

MAJ Thomas Shrader, a project officer on the division staff during the transition from BK to Wiesbaden, said the Germans erected a monument at the city courthouse, paid for by donations from the German people. It lists the three U.S. Army units once stationed in the city — the 1st Arm'd. Div., 2nd Arm'd. Div. and 8th Infantry Div.

"The city sponsored two days of festivities to honor the Americans when they left," said Christel Boris, who was the divisions' deputy public affairs officer from 1973 to 1998, when hundreds of 8th Inf. Div. and 1st Arm'd.

Div. soldiers were stationed in BK. Europe's military considerations were much different during the "Cold War," she said. Thousands of soldiers were strategically located to protect Germany from an invasion across its borders.

"U.S. soldiers were part of the community, and we were like a close-knit family," said Boris. "It's terrible for me that the Americans have left. I feel a great loss."

Boris chose not to continue working for the division at its new location. "It would make me too sad," she said. "It's easier for me to draw the line here." □



A memorial in Bad Kreuznach commemorates the Army's 50-year presence in the city.



The casing of the 410th Base Support Battalion's colors on Dec. 14, 2000, was another act in the phased departure of American troops from Bad Kreuznach.

(Above) Tankers of the 2nd Arm'd. Div. take a break during 1952 field maneuvers near Bad Kreuznach.

(Right) German children made friends with the Americans early on.



Helping the STORK

Story and Photos by Heike Hasenauer

THOUGH the baby-toting stork is a popular image, the realities of childbirth are somewhat more complicated. And for expectant mothers in Europe who are authorized to use U.S. government facilities overseas, having a baby requires even more forethought than mapping out the route to the hospital, knowing who to call when the contractions start and packing a suitcase for the hospital stay.

Those who want to deliver their babies at an American military hospital in Europe have only one option:

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany.

Expectant mothers from Germany, Italy, Spain, Great Britain and Turkey have traveled to LRMCC for specialized medical care since Oct. 1, 1998, after other overseas U.S. medical facilities closed, said hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw. All prospective mothers who experience complicated pregnancies must deliver their babies at the Landstuhl facility.

For prospective moms in the latter category, "stork" is closely associated with a program that is relatively new in Europe, the Stork Nest Program.

Besides employing some of the most highly qualified doctors and nurses in the military, LRMCC boasts a special neo-natal intensive-care unit for premature babies, said MAJ Ann Marie Blunt, Stork Nest Program coordinator.

Elvira Ortiz and her husband, SSG Inocencio Ortiz of the 21st Theater Area Support Command, in Kaiserslautern, Germany, can vouch for LRMCC's neo-natal care facilities. Their baby, Migdiel, who weighed in

Neo-natal ICU care for premature babies is just one service LRMCC offers through the Stork Nest Program.

at 3 pounds, 4 ounces at birth, remained in the facility for several weeks until his doctor was certain he was strong enough to go home. During that time he received round-the-clock care.

Through the Stork Nest program, at-risk mothers-to-be arrive in Landstuhl, typically in their 28th to 31st weeks of pregnancy, said MAJ Clunie Johnson, neo-natal ICU head nurse. Some women come into the program much earlier. When the prospective mothers arrive is determined by their physicians.

"Some babies are born as young as 23 weeks," said Johnson, as she monitored premature twins that both weighed about two pounds.

Some babies must be placed on ventilators because they can't breathe on their own. Others are placed in incubators until their vital organs have had a chance to develop a little more, they've gained weight and can better fend off potential illnesses, Johnson said.

Stork Nesters, as program participants are called, live in transient billets at LRMCC until they give birth. Being among other women who are experiencing initial loneliness — and, for those pregnant with their first children,

similar fear of the unknown — allows them to draw strength and comfort from one another at a time when they're far from home and away from family and loved ones, Blunt said.

Together, program participants can go on day trips and attend classes on parenting and breast-feeding, among other activities. Within a week of their arrival, Blunt coordinates their OB-GYN appointments and arranges a tour of LRMCC's obstetrics facilities.

Additionally, the American Red Cross provides Stork Nesters with access to computers, makes necessary arrangements for contacting loved ones in an emergency, and provides a "buddy" who will be available to run occasional errands or go along on shopping trips for groceries, baby clothes and toys.

Red Cross volunteers SPC Noraliz Maysonet-Candelarie, a dental assistant with the 464th Medical Company in Landstuhl, and SGT Amber Arroyo, a lab technician with LRMCC's Company C, are co-chairs of the Stork Nest

Elvira Ortiz, wife of SSG Inocencio Ortiz, cradles the couple's newborn son. He was premature and weighed 3 pounds, 4 ounces at birth.

Buddy Program. It's their job to assign or become a buddy to a Stork Nester.

Arroyo was Air Force Staff Sgt. LeAnn Stetson's buddy for a while. "This is my first pregnancy," said Stetson, who's stationed in Incirlik, Turkey. "And I don't know what to expect. It's nice to not have to sit alone in a room waiting for something to happen."

"The first day I met Amber, she took me to Kaiserslautern's 800-year-anniversary festival. Then we went shopping," said Stetson, who had been a Stork Nester for more than 30 days. "She's also invited me to her home."

While in Landstuhl, the Stork Nesters receive their mail, addressed to "Attention: Stork Nest Program," and they're eligible to use all military support services, including dining facility, post exchange, shoppette and USO.

The program does have its drawbacks, Blunt said. Besides family separation, costs can initially be a burden if program participants don't plan ahead. Stork Nesters are asked to pay for everything up front and are fully reimbursed for all "reasonable"

expenses. Rental cars are not included.

Billeting costs \$18.50 per night, with an additional \$8 fee for spouses. In-hospital costs are \$10.20 per day for civilians and dependents; \$10.20 for infants, and \$8 for active-duty personnel, Blunt said.

Typically, spouses and significant others from outside Germany arrive in Landstuhl about a week before the expected delivery date, to share the momentous occasion.

After the birth, program personnel coordinate with appropriate agencies to register the child's birth and complete requirements for the child to be included on the mother's passport. □



Red Cross volunteers SPC Noraliz Maysonet-Candelarie (left) and SGT Amber Arroyo (right) pose with mom-to-be Air Force Staff Sgt. LeAnn Stetson before leaving LRMCC on a shopping trip.

Prospective moms in Europe who would like more information about having their babies at LRMCC — or those interested specifically in the Stork Nest Program for at-risk pregnancies — may contact MAJ Ann Marie Blunt by calling (DSN) 486-7914, commercial 06371-86-7914 (from within Germany) or commercial 0049-06371-86-7914 (from elsewhere within Europe).



Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Stork Nest Program offers expectant mothers a broad range of specialized services.



SSG Andress Simmons, an Army instructor at the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy, motions two students to a better position from which to attack the flames engulfing a simulated UH-60 helicopter.

Story and Photos by Steve Harding

FIREFIGHTER UNIVERSITY



Students in Block 4 attack a fire in the kitchen of the academy's "3-2-1" trainer, a fireproof three-story building that also includes bedrooms and living areas.

FIREFIGHTER UNIVERSITY

THE two young firefighters weren't doing well. Encumbered by protective gear and pummeled by waves of searing heat from the burning Black Hawk, they couldn't seem to get their hose into the right position to attack the flames engulfing the helicopter. Just as they were about to retreat, SSG Andreas

Simmons calmly motioned them to a better position, and within moments they'd beaten the fire into submission. Simmons and his fellow instructors at the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy know firsthand how daunting and demanding firefighting can be, and they do all they can to pass on their collective knowledge to the soldiers and other service members who attend

The academy uses 46 classrooms, 58 vehicles and a range of other training aids to produce firefighters for all of the U.S. military services.

the state-of-the-art school.

A Joint Effort

Located on its own large compound at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, the academy uses 46 classrooms, 58 vehicles and a range of other training aids to produce firefighters for all of the U.S. military services.

"Firefighting crosses military boundaries," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick J. Smith, commander of Goodfellow's 312th Training Squadron and the academy's supervisor. "Each service has common concerns in terms of structural, vehicle and aircraft fires, so firefighting is a perfect skill to be taught in a joint-services academy."

"By having soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast Guard members all go through here together," he said, "we're also able to make better use of our resources and ensure the same level of expertise across all the services."

"Firefighting is a team effort,"

added MSG Buddy Glover, the facility's senior Army instructor, "whether you do it in the military or as a civilian. No one works alone, and that teamwork is obvious here at the academy. Students have instructors from all four of the services, and all of the instructors teach the same material from the same lesson plans."

"The sort of integrated and comprehensive training we offer here has become especially important since the tragic events of Sept. 11," Smith said, "because the terrorist attacks and their aftermath underscored the value of well-trained and well-equipped emergency services within the Department of Defense. Since the attacks we've been getting calls from military and civilian organizations throughout the nation asking about ways in which

the academy's staff might be able to share their knowledge.

"There's a very strong awareness that firefighters are critical to homeland defense and installation preparedness," Smith said. "And all of the services are dedicating a lot more effort and a lot more money to ensuring they have the right resources and the right number of people to respond to any possible situation. We're doing all we can to ensure that our firefighters have the skills that will keep them from getting hurt and allow them to respond intelligently and efficiently."

Learning the Skills

Though the Louis F. Garland Fire



(Above) Block 4 students prepare for a stint in the school's "3-2-1" trainer, whose intricate piping system can produce controlled flames at the flick of a switch.



(Left) The state-of-the-art academy produces about 1,500 new military firefighters each year.

Academy offers experienced firefighters the chance to train in such things as fire inspection and advanced technical rescue, about half of the 3,000 personnel who went through the school in fiscal year 2001 were there to pick up the basic skills of the trade. These are taught in the 66-day Apprentice Course, which Glover called the “foundation upon which all a firefighter’s advanced skills are built.”

This basic firefighter course is divided into seven blocks of instruction — six that are common to all students (listed below) and a seventh, deployment-related block for Air Force personnel only.

Taken as a whole, Glover said, the Apprentice Course is a challenging and comprehensive introduction to the range of skills the new firefighters will need in the field.

“The course is really well put together,” Glover said, “and we couldn’t ask for a better place to train firefighters. So any problems that arise are usually not because of a student’s dedication to being a



Though not as physically imposing as some of the academy’s other students, PFC Leah Brooks typifies the dedication and “heart” all firefighters need.

firefighter; they usually grow out of the individual’s dedication to being a service member.”

Soldiers, Then Firefighters

In the case of the approximately 175 active and reserve-component Army personnel who attend the academy each year, dedication to being service members means remem-



The camera’s flash lights the interior of a long, obstacle-packed confined-spaces trainer that students normally negotiate in total darkness.

Six instruction blocks are common to all students.

1 and 2

The students’ first exposure to their new career field comes during the 12 academic days devoted to **Blocks 1 and 2**, during which instructors cover such basics as building codes, structure types, alarm systems, fire behavior, CPR, rescue breathing and first aid.

3

In **Block 3** the students are introduced to the physical side of firefighting and the tools of the trade: ladders, axes, ropes and, of course, fire trucks. Practical exercises in the academy’s sprawling outdoor training area involve such things as learning how to evacuate people from smoke-filled buildings, and how to physically haul unconscious or injured people to safety.

4

It’s in **Block 4** that the fledgling firefighters first confront fire, “the beast,” by tackling it head-on in the academy’s “3-2-1” trainer. This fireproof, three-story building includes kitchens, bedrooms and living areas, and is fitted with an intricate system of piping that can produce controlled flames at the flick of a switch.

In this block the students also learn the often exhausting art of laying and retrieving hoses, a task that many of them find to be the academy’s most physically challenging.

5

From the 3-2-1 trainer the students move back to the classroom for **Block 5**, which teaches them how to recognize and deal with the range of hazardous materials firefighters can encounter. This block culminates with practical lessons in the specialized skills of “HAZMAT” firefighting, which are taught using another of the academy’s highly realistic outdoor simulators.

6

Block 6, the final course of instruction for all but the Air Force students in the apprentice course, covers airport firefighting and is perhaps the most intense instruction the students undergo.

This block starts with three days of classroom work, after which students move to the outside training area to operate the specialized vehicles used to fight aircraft fires. They also learn how to fight fuel fires using foam, and how to extract crewmembers from helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. They put the new skills to the test fighting controlled fires set in highly realistic helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft simulators.



Block 3 students practice removing an "unconscious casualty" from the top of a building.

"This is the best fire academy in the world, and if you want to be a firefighter, this is the place to come."

bering they are soldiers first. "We make up a fairly small group here at what we like to call 'Fort Goodfellow,' since the only other soldiers on the base attend the Air Force-run intelligence school," Glover said. "So helping these young people become outstanding soldiers is just as important to us as helping them become outstanding firefighters. They're still young, in terms of being

both firefighters and soldiers, and we mentor them in both areas." While the fire academy's 19 Army instructors are assigned to the Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., they, like the academy's Army students, are attached to the Goodfellow-based 344th Military Intelligence Battalion for admin purposes. And it's in the battalion's Company B that the Army students get much of the mentoring they need. "The company has two very fine drill sergeants, both of whom are MOS 51M firefighters, and they're the ones who handle the students outside the class," Glover said. "The drill sergeants get a lot of 'face time' with the students, and they do much of the mentoring in terms of the students' soldier skills. They're the ones who deal with problem issues that the instructors may not catch." "A lot of these students are young and impressionable, so it's up to us to give them the right impression about what the Army is and what the 51M MOS is all about," said SSG Angel Espinoza, one of the drill sergeants. "These students come straight from BCT, and we tell them: 'Look, this is going to be hard, but you can do it.'" "Doing it" takes more than a little effort, Espinoza said. "Their days are long. We usually wake them up at 0400 and we often don't release them until 1700, because there is Army-mandated training that we have to accomplish after they're done at the fire academy," he said. "This is a tough line of work and we're a small MOS. So the teamwork, self-discipline and confidence we try to teach them are important." Equally important, said instructor SSG Thomas Wood, are dedication and "heart." "The first thing you notice about the students who come here is that they really want to be firefighters," Wood said. "And they need that dedication to be able to deal with all the challenges they face. Not just the academic ones, either. This is a physically challenging line of work, and you really have to want to succeed." "Not all firefighters are 6'2", 210 pounds and strong as an ox," Glover added. "And that's where the heart comes in. We have seen soldiers come



(Above) This blazing large-aircraft simulator is one of several extremely realistic training tools students encounter in Block 6.

(Right) In Block 6 students also learn to extract crewmembers from fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, including this retired but structurally intact CH-53.



through here that were 5'2" and 100 pounds and logically shouldn't have been able to handle the physical challenges. But because of their heart and determination, they overcame those challenges. That's the sort of determination we're looking for." And it's the kind of determination that PFC Leah Brooks, at about 5'1" easily one of the academy's less ox-like students, said the academy helped her discover in herself. "Being a firefighter is something I've always wanted to do," she said. "I'm not real big, though, so it's been kind of hard for me. But I've learned a lot from the instructors and the drill sergeants, and I've learned a lot about what I'm capable of doing."

"Making it through this academy is an accomplishment that every graduate should be very proud of, and it prepares people to join a very special and very honorable profession," Glover said. "This is the best fire academy in the world, and if you want to be a firefighter, this is the place to come." □

For more on the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy and its programs, visit www.goodfellow.af.mil/~trs312/newfire/index.htm.



Teela: Tying the U.S. standard in men's biathlon competition.

The Alaska native's performance was hailed as the best effort by an American in 30 years ...

VERMONT Army National Guard soldier **SPC Jeremy Teela** charged to a remarkably strong 14th-place finish and tied the United States' standard in the men's 20-kilometer race at the XIX Winter Olympics' biathlon competition near Heber City, Utah.

The Alaska native's performance in the combination shooting and skiing event was hailed as the best effort by an American in 30 years for the modern individual Olympic competition. Two other Americans finished 14th in the 20-kilometer race in 1960 and 1972, before biathletes began using newer skiing styles and using .22-caliber rifles.

Teela missed just two of 20 targets and skied strongly enough to cover the 12.4-mile distance in 53 minutes, 56.5 seconds, during his first Olympic race. He finished 2:53.2 behind gold medallist Ole Einar Bjoerndalen of Norway after missing one target in each of the first prone and standing shooting stages. He hit all 10 of his final targets.

"My skis were so fast — stupid fast," said the 25-year-old Teela. "The wax guys did such a great job that I could not have asked for better. As for my shooting,

what can I say? I shot 18, and, of course, I always want better. But it was great.

"I didn't feel so great before the race today," added Teela, a member of the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program who is on active-duty status while participating in that program. "But I'm sure glad that I raced."

"I still can't believe this," said U.S. coach Algis Salna, who won a gold medal in the biathlon relay race for the Soviet Union in 1984. "Jeremy cleaning the final two stages is incredible."

Vermont Army Guard SGT **Kristina Sabasteanski** finished 55th and Minnesota Army Guard **SPC Kara Salmela** finished 59th in the women's 15-kilometer race, the day's first event.

Sabasteanski, also an Army world-class athlete, missed four targets and finished in 55 minutes, .9 second. Salmela missed eight targets and finished in 57:25.9. — *MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office*

RETIRED GEN **Carl Stiner** — the second general to head Special Operations Command and former commander of the 82nd Airborne Division and XVIII Airborne Corps — recently teamed with novelist **Tom Clancy** to write a chapter on the aftermath of Sept. 11 and the war against terrorism for the newly published book, "Shadow Warriors, Inside the Special Forces."

Clancy and Stiner met hundreds of fans at a Feb. 11 book signing at a shopping mall near the Pentagon. Some people waited in line for hours to have their books signed by the authors.

"This book is dedicated to all the great soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines with whom I have been privileged to serve during 35 years of service," said Stiner in the book's prologue. "Among these, an elite brotherhood of warriors deserves the highest possible recognition — our nation's special-operations force, past and present.

"To those who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our freedom, we owe our deepest respect and gratitude. To their families, we offer our deepest sympathy and prayers for their future," he wrote.

"Our main goal in publishing this book was to educate the public about what special forces soldiers do in peacetime and in war, and to let taxpayers know that they're

Stiner (left) and Clancy: Signing the new book.



getting the maximum amount possible out of each dollar spent on the elite forces."

The book traces the transformation of the special forces from the core of outsiders in the 1950s to special forces' rebirth in the late 1980s and into the new century.

"President Kennedy and BG Bill Yarborough saw the need for changes in special operations in the 1960s, a time of new threats from the Soviet Union and from insurgencies. Unfortunately, our organization shrank considerably after Vietnam, mostly because each service ran its own special operations. When money got tight, they cut special ops," Stiner said.

"The special-operations forces did a great job at what they were told to do, but they were too specialized," he said. "In 1986 the Goldwater-Nichols Act and the Cohen-Nunn Amendment transformed special forces forever. The act created U.S. Special Operations Command and centralized all the special-operations forces." — *Army News Service*

LIFE has been more hectic than usual lately for **SSG Martin Lowrey** and his canine partner, Kiko. The military policeman and his 6-year-old, bomb-sniffing German shepherd have been on the go almost constantly since Sept. 11.

On Jan. 24, for example, Lowrey and Kiko, of the Fort Myer, Va., Military Police Company Canine Section, started their day at Fort Meade, Md., wrapping up a week-long temporary assignment. By 10 a.m. they were at Fort Belvoir, Va., about 60 miles to the south, testing their explosive-detection skills at a warehouse training site.

Just before noon, Lowrey got word he had a real mission. And by 6 p.m. he and Kiko had to be in Cincinnati to conduct a bomb sweep in preparation for a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney.

The Fort Myer canine teams support local military bases and routinely go on missions across the country and around the world to help protect top U.S. government officials. Two of Lowrey's nine fellow dog han-



Lowrey and canine partner Kiko: In demand.

dlers were on assignment at the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The teams "are constantly gone," said **SFC David Reiter**, the company kennel master. "Since Sept. 11, everybody wants dogs. They're a hot commodity," so much so that it's a challenge to schedule mandatory proficiency training, said Reiter, who's worked with military canine units for 15 years.

"When I was a sophomore in high school I decided I wanted to be a police officer in the military," he said.

Since joining the Army he's gone to the World Series with the president and is currently performing missions at Camp David, Md. "I've gone on a White House tour with a Secret Service agent and stayed at five-star hotels.

Movie stars going to these hotels can't bring their pets, but we're allowed to bring our working dogs." — *Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service*

SFC Gary A. Ballew didn't think twice about entering a neighbor's burning house to save a 5-year-old girl.

"Anybody else would have done the same thing," Ballew said modestly.

In fact, Ballew, who was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., at the time, risked his own life as he low-crawled into the building to rescue the trapped girl, according to the Lake Rim, N.C., fire chief. He saved the girl's life, the chief said, by administering first aid until rescue personnel arrived on the scene.

LTG Dan K. McNeill, commander of XVIII Airborne Corps, presented Ballew with the Soldier's Medal, the highest award a soldier can receive for non-combat-related heroism.

Ballew is assigned to First U.S. Army as an observer-controller and trainer with the Fort Stewart, Ga.,-based 4th Brigade, 87th Division. — *First U.S. Army PAO*

"Since Sept. 11, everybody wants dogs. They're a hot commodity."



Ballew (right): Lifesaver.



CPT Mike Sennett

SGT Thorin Sprandel



A Tunisian paratrooper moves to collapse his canopy during the U.S.-Tunisian jump exchange that was a key component of Exercise Atlas Drop '02.

Cap Serrat, Tunisia

U.S., Tunisian Troops Join Forces

U.S. paratroopers, along with Tunisian forces, jumped into the Cap Serrat countryside during Exercise Atlas Drop '02.

Led by U.S. soldiers from the Italy-based 173rd Airborne Brigade, the two-week exercise consisted of a joint U.S.-Tunisian jump exchange, live-fire exercises, and squad-, platoon- and company-level situational training exercises.

The addition of the brigade's Reconnaissance Company, hidden in the Tunisian hills and providing surveillance for the exercise, set this year's training apart from last year's.

"The best thing is when someone comes near my position and doesn't see me," said SGT Christopher McGrath, reconnaissance-team leader. "That gets my heart pumping."

Before the live-fire assault

exercise, which included breaching and trenching the line, the 173rd Combat Support Company's assault and barrier platoon moved tons of soil, improved the wooden structure of the trench and constructed a cement culvert to help drain the trench.

"Our job was to improve the trench, ensuring we get realistic and safe training," said SPC Cesareo Meza, a construction-equipment operator.

After the jump, paratroopers from both countries participated in a ceremonial airborne wing exchange.

"This is the best Atlas Drop we've had, and I hope next year will be even better," said brigade commander COL James C. Yarbrough.

Atlas Drop began in 1996 as an annually scheduled exercise that demonstrates the 173rd Abn. Bde.'s ability to deploy quickly and conduct joint and combined missions. — SGT Thorin Sprandel, 173rd Abn. Bde. PAO

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Soldiers Explore Islam at Camp X-Ray

WHEN Navy Lt. Abuhena M. Saiful-Islam, the Muslim chaplain for Joint Task Force-160, conducted the first "call to prayer" at Camp X-Ray, many service members were just as surprised as some of the de-

tainees. If they were aware of the prayer call beforehand, most didn't understand the meaning of it. Now no one is left in the dark, as an Islamic education class is afforded to all incoming service members.

The first to receive the class were soldiers from the 988th Military Police Company, Fort Benning, Ga., who joined other soldiers and marines already guarding the detainees in Cuba.

According to Saiful-Islam, it is vital all personnel receive the class prior to assuming duties at Camp X-Ray.

"These are the service members who will be guarding and taking care of detainees' needs day after day, so it is critical they have an understanding of the Islamic religion," he said.

During the class Saiful-Islam discusses the Islamic belief system, basic terms used by Islamic followers, and the five pillars of faith — the declaration of faith, prayer, purification of wealth, fasting and pilgrimage.

He also explains to soldiers how each of these would fall in with the job they are doing and how they could best perform their jobs while not violating de-

Sgt. Joshua S. Higgins, USMC



Chaplain (LT) Abuhena M. Saiful-Islam speaks to soldiers about the religious rights of Muslim detainees at Camp X-Ray.



Arnold Schwarzenegger joins SFC Jesus Piñeda of the Texas National Guard's Company C, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry, atop a Bradley fighting vehicle at Camp McGovern, Bosnia.

tainees' rights in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Saiful-Islam said some concerns over the detainees' rights were voiced upon his arrival in Cuba. The issue, he said, has since dwindled following positive reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

"Issues were brought to my attention by some of the detainees that prayer had been disturbed," said Saiful-Islam. "The reason this occurs is because service members may not recognize when a detainee is praying, or some of the customs Islamic followers abide by. I think this class will clear things up."

For guards at Camp X-Ray, the class is a welcome tool that they hope will help them on the job.

"I think if we respect the detainees, they will probably be more cooperative with our security measures," said SPC Melissa D. Manes. "This will make our job much easier." — *Marine Sgt. Joshua S. Higgins, Joint Information Bureau*

Eagle Base, Bosnia

Schwarzenegger Visits Eagle Base

MOVIE icon and body-builder Arnold Schwarzenegger recently took his latest blockbuster, "Collateral Damage," to Eagle Base, Bosnia.

"I have often played an action hero in the movies, but you soldiers are the real action heroes," the actor said, introducing his newest thriller to a packed house inside the base's fest tent.

Before the evening premiere, Schwarzenegger visited Camp McGovern, where he fired the M-16 assault rifle at the simulator range and the M-240 machine gun with live ammunition, and took a ride on a Bradley fighting vehicle.

"He was really nice to be around. I was very relaxed," said SFC Jesus Piñeda, a member of the Army National Guard's

49th Infantry Division who accompanied the star inside the Bradley.

CPL Phillip M. Kriner of the Fort Drum, N.Y.-based 10th Mountain Div. was excited to get his idol's autograph.

"I've watched all his films," he said.

During his visit, Schwarzenegger signed autographs, posed for photos with soldiers, and told them he appreciated all their hard work.

"America is the land of opportunity," he said. "I and everybody who enjoys success in America knows it's because you protect our country."

"We haven't got the big names visiting out here," said SSG Michael Krozer, a Louisiana Army Guard soldier. "This is definitely

a morale booster."

A few lucky soldiers at the fitness center pumped a little iron during an impromptu workout session with the muscle man.

The "Terminator" pledged before his departure: "I'll be back!" — *SSG John W. House, 382nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*



Schwarzenegger autographs a photo for CPL Phillip M. Kriner of the 10th Mtn. Div.

Sharp Shooters

Photos by

SGT William A. Graves

As the "Home of the Infantry" Fort Benning, Ga., is one of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's busiest training hubs. Covering 184,000 acres in southern Georgia, the installation is home to the Infantry Training Brigade and a basic training combat brigade. It also boasts such training facilities as the Airborne, Ranger and Fitness schools. SGT William A. Graves captured on film some of the training that takes place at Fort Benning every day.

PVT Jason Engel (on top, at right) practices "passing the guard" with PVT Richard Britton (bottom) as SSG Joseph Gagnon instructs them in combatives during basic training.



Two airborne students prepare to land at Fryer Drop Zone.



Infantry Training Brigade soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 58th Infantry Regiment, practice their bayonet skills.

PVT Charles Vogelsson sounds off during bayonet drill.



SSG Lee Wright shows PVT Kyle Keihn the proper way to deliver a butt stroke.

Standard photo submissions for Soldiers Sharp Shooters can be mailed to:
Photo Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road,
Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.
Photo submissions of digital images should be directed to:
alberto.betancourt@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.



MANY service members, retirees and their families are in firm contention for championship status in the "Debt Olympics," having amassed burdensome obligations and defaults on their credit payments. The evidence can be found in their frequent visits to legal-assistance offices to get relief from unmanageable bills that adversely impact family harmony, credit standings, security clearances, job performance and military career potential.

America has the highest level of educated citizens in its history, yet many people appear helpless in handling their personal financial affairs, and a growing number of them are filing for bankruptcy each year. As for the military community, it's all too frequently represented in the statistics, since it's a reflection of our civilian society.

Who's to Blame?

Opinions on the causes of increasing debt and default on payments vary nearly as much as the number

Steven Chucala is chief of client services in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Get Off the Debt Wagon

of sources that can be quoted. Alleged causes range from the deregulation of the credit industry, resulting in loosening of underwriting standards, to remarks that more laws are needed to protect citizens from banks and moneylenders.

Reading these arguments, the private debtor is often tempted to complain, "It's not my fault, I shouldn't have been granted credit in the first place." It's a defense people are using more frequently to avoid personal responsibility.

Credit cards are but one aspect of debt, yet they epitomize current consumer behavior. The National Law Center recently reported that 75 percent of U.S. households have at least one credit card debt from month to month. Yet it's no wonder that consumers are "addicted" to credit, since lenders have issued more than 1 billion cards, a number equivalent to sending a dozen credit cards to each household in the country.

"Dollar debt" continued to escalate in 2001, with no letup in sight. In 1997, the dollar value of outstanding loans was \$442 billion. This figure is twice the dollar amount of 1993, just four years earlier. Zeroing in on 1997 alone, the credit industry mailed 3 billion solicitations, or about 41 per household. The number increased in 2000 to 3.3 billion solicitations.



Debt is a Military Problem

Overall, one family in nine spends more than 40 percent of its income on debt service. At income levels below \$25,000, this number rises to one in six. Since many military personnel fall within this lower-income group, such debt is of increasing concern in the Army. But families in higher income brackets are not immune and also fall prey to extensive debt obligations.

Commanders and legal assistance attorneys once believed that junior soldiers would not get credit-card solicitations, or that their credit would not be approved. That assumption was clearly incorrect, as military families are being provided credit cards from multiple sources that, when used together, add up to thousands of credit dollars. Even people who have declared bankruptcy

often receive new credit cards, and they proceed to use them without hesitation.

The government has attempted to protect consumers by legislating a variety of federal and local laws concerning fair credit billing, credit collection and even credit reporting. But these laws cannot legislate consumer self-restraint or common sense in credit and debt creation.

Clients are experiencing severe stress, family disputes and economic distress that cannot be cured by commanders and attorneys, since 99 percent of the debts are legally binding and were incurred without any fraud on the part of the lender or seller. Furthermore, most soldiers have done too little, too late, having sought help — through free budget counseling by organizations such as the Army Community Services — only after they are unable to meet their debt payments and are faced with bad credit ratings, judicial judgments, property repossession or foreclosures.

Avoiding the Debt Trap

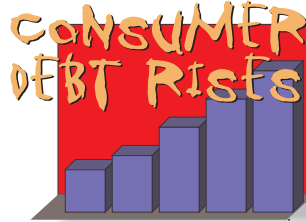
Consumers could avoid this modern-day economic disaster by asking themselves several questions before incurring additional debt:

- 💰 Can I afford it?
- 💰 Can I do without this purchase for this year or until I can handle the debt?
- 💰 Will I be able to cover all of my debts a few months from now?
- 💰 What changes will the total debts demand of my lifestyle?
- 💰 Can I buy a cheaper item that will provide me what I truly need?
- 💰 What will the item's total cost be if I can't make payments on time?
- 💰 What money have I set aside for unforeseen needs?
- 💰 Will this debt mean taking a second job to make the payments?
- 💰 What impact will debts have on my job and the performance of my military duties?

In a sense, it's too bad that credit cards don't immediately remove funds from your wallet at the sales register. Rather, they create a false belief that you

don't have to worry about the debt — that it will somehow be taken care of in the future. If consumers treated each transaction from the perspective of "Do I have the money in my wallet to pay for the purchase?" then self-restraint might follow.

Credit pitfalls include the low interest rates that are offered to attract consumers but then escalate after an introductory period and climb even more dramatically as a result of late payments.



Coming Congressional Action?

Many believe that all will be well if they file for bankruptcy — and military and civilian families are filing for bankruptcy in record numbers, to the point that federal legislation may soon tighten bankruptcy requirements.

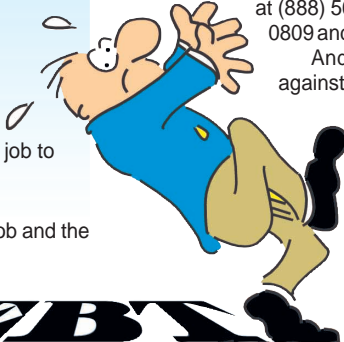
Congressional changes seek to establish a new "means" test, so that if the debtor can cover at least 25 percent of the obligations over five years, he or she will have to enter a court-supervised repayment plan instead of being allowed to erase all debts immediately.

While politicians and lobbyists continue to argue what final form bankruptcy legislation should take, the unsolicited, "pre-approved" credit card offers keep showing up at the consumer's door.

What You Can Do

Your best defense against this assault is to simply cut up and throw away these offers, and to stop future solicitations by making phone calls to each of the organizations that monitor credit usage: Equifax at (888) 567-8688, Experian at (800) 353-0809 and Trans Union at (800) 680-7293.

And perhaps your best defense against misusing and possibly losing the credit privileges you have is to turn one of those old credit card slogans around and "just leave home without it."



MARKING THE DISTANCE HOME

Story by Renita Foster



Mile markers, like this one on Okinawa during World War II, have been common since Roman times.

Q UIZ any deployed soldier on what he or she might do to feel closer to home and many would likely say they'd erect a post with signs indicating the direction and distance to their most special place on earth — home.

Soldiers call the makeshift distance-direction indicators "mile markers," "road signs" or "signposts."

Vietnam veteran Herbert Brown, a civilian engineer in Indianapolis, Ind., said: "Signposts went up whenever we moved to new airfields, which was about six different times. We'd get to a new site and make the location signs with the slats from ammunition cases. I put up 'Indianapolis' for me."

Signposts began with the Romans and have existed since.

"I especially remember seeing the signs toward the end of World War II, especially in France," said O.B. Hill, a D-Day veteran from Cathedral City, Calif., who served with the 82nd Airborne Division. "I never heard the posts referred to by any official term. For me, they were simply reminders that the places that were so dear to our hearts still existed. New York City was almost always on a signpost somewhere because every one of us was either from there or would be going through there to get home."

Most soldiers don't know the origin of the military signpost, said Charleston, W. Va., military historian and Air Force veteran Dan Holmes. He believes it dates to the time of Roman armies, when their troops erected signs marking the route to Rome.

Renita Foster is assigned to the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Public Affairs Office at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

"I especially remember seeing the signs toward the end of World War II, especially in France."



O.B. Hill, a WWII veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division, remembers mile markers being very common in Europe near the end of the war.

Retired BG John Kirk, a military researcher in Seattle, Wash., agreed with Holmes' idea that signposts began with the Romans and have existed since. "Legend has it that a stone column in what is now Normandy pointed Roman soldiers toward Rome," Kirk said.

Another theory is associated with Icelandic explorer Leif Eriksson, thought to be the first European to land on the North American continent. The theory is that Eriksson, upon seeing a graffiti-covered rock in northern Scotland, followed the scrawled direction to "turn left here" that brought him safely back to Norway.

While they're typically associated with war, the signposts crop up during noncombat deployments as well.

Al Blaney of Natick, Mass., a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, remembered spending a few days building a signpost at Taegu

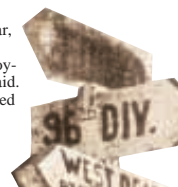
Air Base, Korea, in 1950. His sign read: "Maine," the place he longed to return to because his wife was living there.

Ken Leeman, a Korean War veteran from Lakewood, N.J., said mile markers in Korea in 1950 were as common as the flight line, dispensary and barracks at Kimpo Air Base.

And during the Gulf War, erecting signposts was among the first chores soldiers performed, said Bruce Martin, then a transportation company commander who now works at Fort Monmouth, N.J., as a management analyst at the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Command. The signs represented soldiers from every part of America.

While they're typically associated with war, the signposts crop up during noncombat deployments as well, Martin said.

Bob Hopkins, a retired





An American soldier changes a street sign in Nürnberg, Germany, on April 20, 1945, signifying that the Yanks have arrived.

warrant officer, remembered contributing to the construction of mile markers while in Germany, during Return of Forces to Germany exercises in the 1970s. Soldiers in various units made a contest out of trying to create the most elaborate signpost around, he said.

"Before I knew it, we had a massive pole bearing the names of dozens of cities," Hopkins said. The signpost became a conversation piece that helped bridge gaps between soldiers, introducing those from the same towns or cities and allowing them to share stories about places and people they had in common.

Signpost construction began within hours of SSG George Cleaveland's arrival at Camp Stanley, Korea, in 1996, where he served with the 2nd Infantry Division near the demilitarized zone. Today he's an MP at Fort Monmouth.

"Basically, everything faced east,

because we were so far west of the United States. And because we had soldiers from Arizona, Massachusetts, Arkansas, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia, the names of various cities in each of those states had to be mounted on the signpost," Cleaveland said.

The exact mileage from the DMZ to each city was important, Cleaveland added. "I liked remembering the fact that Detroit was 22 hours away by air, because that number was much smaller than the actual mileage."

Besides bringing the names of hometowns to far off places, signposts can also indicate soldiers' attitudes about a location or assignment, Cleaveland said.

During the Korean War, members of a unit based at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, spelled their feelings out like this: "Group Headquarters, Too Damn Close" (to the action).

The signpost was reconstructed from a photograph for an exhibit at the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, during the armed forces' commemoration of the 50th anniversary of

the Korean War, said Jeff Duford, a historian at the museum.

He said one of the directional slats provided mileage to the nearest "watering hole," that is, place where a soldier could quench his thirst with a tall glass of Cuban rum or Kentucky bourbon.

Yet another signpost, this one in Bosnia-Herzegovina, indicated a less than desirable state of morale among soldiers from Great Britain, France and Germany; its "morale" directional arrow pointed straight down, said Dr. Jeffery Underwood, a U.S. Air Force Museum historian who photographed the post just outside Sarajevo.

Vietnam veteran Bob Maras of Lakehurst, N.J., said mile markers represent a vital link to home that a soldier can visualize. They're a reminder that he or she is only so

"I liked remembering the fact that Detroit was 22 hours away by air, because that number was much smaller than the actual mileage."

many miles from home and will travel those miles again en route home.

Signposts are also extensions of a soldier's imagination, passion and sense of humor, Duford said.

The mile marker Cleaveland associated with home while he was stationed near the Korean DMZ stood right outside his barracks door, so he passed it several times a day.

"I had two kids at the time, and I thought about them every time I passed the sign," Cleaveland said. "I even patted it every day for luck.

"Signposts always bring back the memories of home," he said. "That's a very positive thing. Because home is number one." □

SSG George Cleaveland remembers that the mileage signs on markers in Korea all pointed east, toward home.



A Tank to Remember

By John Slee and 1LT David Key



A VINTAGE American tank found in Haiti will soon take its place among other Army antiques at the 1st Armored Division Museum in Baumholder, Germany, thanks to Military Traffic Management Command personnel who moved the rusted vehicle by ship and barge to Baumholder, where it will be completely restored.

In its half-century life, the 1942-era M3A1 Stuart tank has seen service in various countries, according to historians at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.

They said the tank — one of 3,427 built — first surfaced at the end of World War II, when it was one of six World War II-era Army tanks sold by a European government to Haiti. The tanks were reconditioned by the Ferrari Motor Company, in Italy, and then shipped across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Army first became aware of the tanks in 1994, when a special forces team, which included museum specialist Jim Speraw, found the inoperable tanks at Camp De Application, a

Haitian Defense Forces installation.

When CMH acquired the tanks for display in Army museums, the M3A1 was moved to an Army depot in Anniston, Ala., and later shipped to the Army Reserve's 88th Regional Support Command at Fort Snelling, Minn.

The M3A1 Stuart is still equipped with its 37mm cannon and original engine and air filters. The only missing part is the cannon's breech block.

MTMC's Netherlands-based 838th Transportation Battalion unloaded the tank from the USNS *Faust* at Antwerp, Belgium. Then MTMC's Rhine River Detachment from Mannheim, Germany, barged the "dinosaur" to Baumholder.

The 37th Trans. Bn. later moved it to the nearby 1st Armored Division Museum, where it will be restored to its original 1942 condition before being displayed with some 40 other combat vehicles, said museum director Dan Peterson.

Recovery of the tank has created a sensation among military vehicle enthusiasts, he said.

"Classic military vehicle clubs are very interested in this tank because it's the first one to arrive in Europe in its original configuration," said John Slee, chief of the battalion's traffic-management division.

Records indicate that almost two-thirds of the Stuart tanks produced went to America's allies through the Lend-Lease program. Recipients included both Britain and China. The rest went to the U.S. Army.

The most notable use of the tank was in the North African campaign, beginning in November 1942. This was the first tank to be used in combat there by the 1st Armored Div. The M3 was successfully used to defeat a larger force of Vichy French Renault tanks at Oran, Algeria. Later, the tank was used with success against weaker Italian armor, the historians said.

With only a 37mm main gun and relatively light armor, the tank was no match for the armor of Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps. So the mission of the Stuart tanks was reduced to reconnaissance and infiltration. In this new role, the tank's low weight and high speed gave it a decided advantage.

In 1942 an improved version, boasting sloping armor, was developed. It was designated the M3A3 and was nearly the same as the next version, the M5. All of these tanks were named after the famous Confederate cavalry leader J.E.B. Stuart.

The entire Stuart series of light tanks was replaced in 1944 by the M24 General Chaffee tank.

Speraw said CMH is interested in other vehicles and equipment from World War II, including Sherman tanks, half-tracks and armored cars. Anyone with information about possible procurement of World War II materiel may call Speraw at (202) 685-2464. □

Additional information on the 1st Armored Division Museum is available at www.baumholder.army.mil/museum/museum.htm



John Slee is chief of the 838th Trans. Bn.'s Terminal Management Division. 1LT David Key commands the Rhine River Detachment.



MTMC contractor Thierry van Zandbergen checks shipment documents upon the M3A1's arrival in Belgium. The tank is one of 3,427 examples built.

Karel Philippe (both)

Dealing With Death

Story by
Heike Hasenauer



(Above) A trowel, here laying beside replica bones used for training, is one of the most important tools in the recovery of remains.

(Right) Soldiers training to become mortuary-affairs specialists unearth a replica skeleton during an exercise at Fort Lee, Va.



Jim Bohon

AS people around the world continue to focus on the war against terrorism, so, too, do they realize that more U.S. soldiers fighting in Afghanistan and other trouble spots around the world will undoubtedly die on foreign soil.

A soldier doesn't take the oath of enlistment without knowing that death is an occupational hazard. But, as is true for mainstream society, death can come much more unexpectedly in peacetime.

In Afghanistan, and across the Army, specially trained soldiers, most of them in the Army Reserve, must deal with death when tragedy strikes.

During Soldiers' visit, CPT Corey Boyer commanded the 54th Quartermaster Company, the Army's only active-duty mortuary-affairs company, stationed at Fort Lee, Va.

A day after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, he and other soldiers from his company performed the painstaking and heartbreaking mission of recovering and preparing remains.

Initially, five 7-person teams were on-site.

"A gruesome part of the work involved removing the rubble and searching through it for remains," said LTG Thomas J. Plewes, commander of the Army Reserve.

A Reserve mortuary-affairs unit, the 311th QM Co. from Puerto Rico, had arrived on the scene two days later to augment the 54th.

Because the Pentagon disaster site was an active crime scene, FBI officials first conducted their own investigations of the criminal nature of the deaths, said SGM Alfred Grigler, the senior enlisted mortuary-affairs

specialist in the Army. Only then were the litter teams allowed to enter portions of the collapsed west wing of the Pentagon.

"This has been a first-time experience for me," Boyer said of performing the job he was trained to do in a real-life, mass-casualty situation. He had only recently joined the unit as its commander in May 2001.

He previously taught and wrote doctrine at Fort Lee's Mortuary Affairs Center, where all mortuary-affairs specialists are trained.

"Training helps us prepare for what we do. But you can never be fully prepared for something like what happened at the Pentagon. I still get choked up," Boyer said. "I felt very badly for the families. It just made my heart ache."

At the same time, he said, "the experience prompted me to refocus on the importance of human life and family. I also know how important our job is. Recovering remains and returning them to families provides some comfort to those families. We're giving them closure."

The need for soldiers trained to recover, process and send home the bodies of the dead has always been critical in combat. Soldiers from the 54th QM Co. have traveled around the world to recover and return the bodies of soldiers killed while conducting missions in hostile lands. And it isn't just soldiers they recover.

Grigler deployed with the unit in response to the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon; the attack on the USS *Stark*; and the killing of 18 special forces soldiers in Somalia. He also participated in the recovery of remains following the crash in Croatia of an



Training for mortuary-affairs specialists also includes preparation of remains for shipment to their final resting place.

Air Force plane carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and others.

Members of the 54th QM Co. were also in Oklahoma City following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Sixteen soldiers from the 54th worked 12-hour shifts for two weeks following that blast, placing remains in body bags and moving them to a temporary identification tent. Then they worked with officials from the Oklahoma City Medical Examiner's Office to identify them.

"Our primary mission is to recover remains with dignity and respect," Grigler said.

In mortuary-affairs specialist training, students study map reading; search and recovery operations;

Heike Hasenauer

Jim Bohon



Jim Bolton

During a training exercise, SPC Jacob Vigil notes the exact position of a replica skeleton before beginning to excavate it.

gridding (to establish grid coordinates and azimuth readings marking the location of every set of remains or parts of remains found); interment and disinterment; and mortuary operations.

They also learn about the human skeletal system in order to distinguish human remains from those of animals. And there are fingerprinting and dental identification classes. Mortuary-affairs personnel do tentative identifications only, but completion of dental charts is part of the job of processing remains.

In the first and fifth weeks of the training, students visit the state medical examiner's office in Richmond, Va., where they get a hands-on perspective, Grigler said.

"They examine remains, assist in performing autopsies and take tissue samples," he added. "They see remains before the remains arrive at a funeral home, and have been prepared and placed in a casket."

Following the first visit, they undergo a psychiatric evaluation to ensure they're OK, Grigler said.

Most of the students have never been exposed to death, he said. It's important to the Army that prospective

"A lot of soldiers who enter this field think they'll be dealing with funeral details — flags, somber music, salutes. They won't."

mortuary-affairs specialists know what they will be doing upon graduating from the six-week course.

One instructor at the school said: "A lot of soldiers who enter this field think they'll be dealing with funeral details — flags, somber music, salutes. They won't."

While they usually don't perform autopsies, Grigler said, mortuary-affairs specialists may assist in conducting them if they're assigned to Army mortuary facilities overseas, as at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Soldiers from LRMC have also rotated in and out of Bosnia and Kosovo since 1995, where their assistance has been required.

Sometimes the preparation of remains for viewing and burial requires mortuary-affairs specialists to clean bodies from head to toe, shave dead soldiers or suture remains after an autopsy.

Mortuary-affairs specialists see some horrific stuff, said Grigler, who was a mortician before joining the Army. "We work on remains and focus on just that. It's only afterward that the realization of what we've seen and dealt with hits us."

Counseling before, during and after missions helps mortuary-affairs specialists cope with the aftermath of



Heike Hasenauer

Classes in human anatomy and the structure of the human skeleton are vital aspects of the mortuary-affairs training.

dealing with the death of others.

Soldiers in this MOS stay in the MOS because "they understand that they work for the families — people they'll never see and who will never know them. But by bringing closure for the family, they help them in dealing with their loss," Boyer said. □



Paul Sweeney

PV2 Jessica Lee Haberstroh examines a mannequin's teeth and notes her observations on the "victim's" medical record.

BE A PART OF YOUR MAGAZINE

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO SOLDIERS

Soldiers wants you, your family and friends to be part of our hottest issue of the year. We're already planning our 2003 almanac and once again need your help.

A large part of each almanac is "This Is Our Army," a photo feature that tells the Army story at the local level.

If you have candid photos of the Army family at work or play, send them in NOW. **The only restriction is that your photos should be taken between Aug. 16, 2001, and Aug. 15, 2002, and be sent to us by Sept. 1.**

Soldiers requires color prints or slides. We don't need fancy 8x10 prints — regular 4x6 prints will do. We can accept digital images, but they must be very high resolution (minimum is 5x7 at 300 dpi), the kind taken with a professional digital camera. If your images can fit onto a floppy disk, they are too small. Please do not send prints made from digital images. Also, please **DO NOT** e-mail photo submissions.

To enter, complete a copy of the form below and attach it to each photo you send. Photos without complete caption information will not be considered. Photos and accompanying information cannot be returned.

If you have questions, contact our photo editor by phone at (703) 806-4504 or (DSN) 656-4504, or via e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

Mail your entries with prints or slides to:
Soldiers; ATTN: Photo Editor; 9325 Gunston Rd., Suite S-108; Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.

"Writing and Shooting for Soldiers Magazine" and the Soldiers Style Guide, are both available at www.soldiersmagazine.com.

10

TIPS FOR PHOTO SUCCESS

MORE than half the photos we receive each year never make it to the final selection process, mostly for avoidable reasons. Follow these simple tips to be sure your photos have the best chance of being selected.

1. Complete the accompanying entry form and carefully attach it to the back of each photo you send, or provide a way of linking it to each image.

2. Make sure your package is postmarked by the Sept. 1, 2002 deadline.

3. Send only photos taken between Aug. 16, 2001, and Aug. 15, 2002.

4. Check closely to be sure your photos don't show obvious uniform or safety violations.

5. Identify people in each photo by full name, rank and correct unit designation; and provide a means of contacting you if we have any questions about the information you've sent.

6. Don't send snapshots of people staring into the camera. Candid photos are usually better.

7. Send only quality images: No Polaroids; no out-of-focus, discolored or torn images; and no prints from digital images.

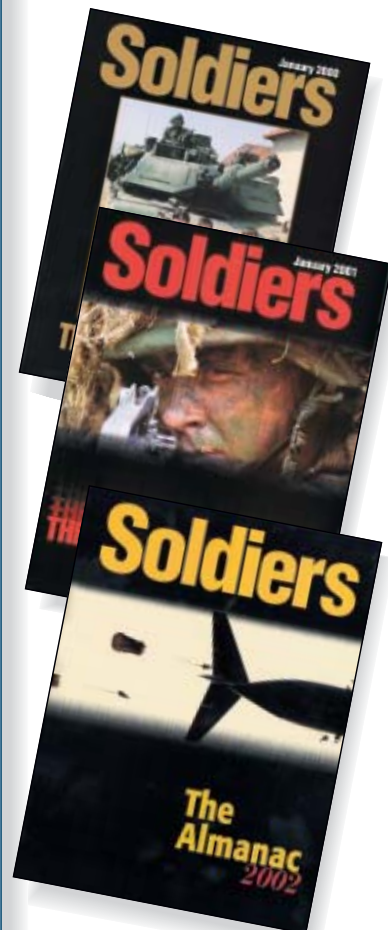
8. Don't write on the back of your prints, because this may damage the images. Also, avoid using staples and paper clips on photos.

9. Protect your images. Use cardboard to reinforce your package before you mail.

10. If you plan to send digital images, follow the guidelines in our Style Guide, posted on

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Soldiers

"This Is Our Army" Entry Form

Photographer's full name (and rank if military)

e-mail address

Phone

Street address

City (APO)

State

Zip

Photocopy this entry form and attach a copy to each photo you submit.

Where and when was the photo taken? (Use approximate date if necessary.)

Describe the action in the photo. (Include full name, rank and unit of those pictured.)

Mail to: **Soldiers, ATTN: Photo Editor, 9325 Gunston Rd., Suite S-108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.** Photos must have been taken between Aug. 16, 2001, and Aug. 15, 2002. Color prints and slides are acceptable. Photos that are obviously posed or that show obvious uniform or safety violations will be disqualified. Entries cannot be returned and must be postmarked by Sept. 1, 2002. For more information see **Soldiers Online at www.soldiersmagazine.com.**

Around the Services

Compiled by Paul Disney from service reports



Air Force

The Civil Air Patrol celebrated 60 years of service with a wreath-laying ceremony at the CAP Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

The ceremony paid special tribute to the World War II coastal patrol members, nicknamed the "sub chasers," who used their own private planes armed with bombs and depth charges to hunt for German U-boats. The sub chasers are credited with sinking two subs. Today, CAP pilots fly 85 percent of inland search-and-rescue missions in the nation.



Coast Guard

In the largest homeland-defense and port-security operation since World War II, the Coast Guard mobilized more than 2,000 Reservists immediately after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In January alone, the Coast Guard conducted 30,000 port-security patrols and 3,000 air patrols, boarded 1,792 high-interest vessels, and escorted 5,112 vessels in and out of ports. The Coast Guard protects the 95,000 miles of America's coastline, including the Great Lakes and inland waterways.

Department of Defense

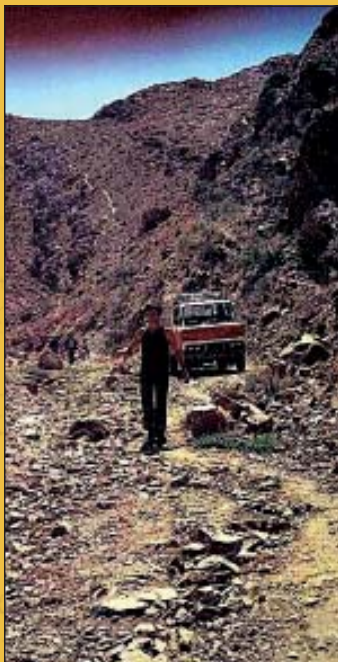
Construction workers continue laboring around the clock at the Pentagon, pouring concrete and placing rebar to create the new walls of the D ring. The plastic molds being used replicate the 1941 wooden plank framework used in the original construction project. Engineers expect the repairs to be completed by Sept. 11.



Navy

A recently identified sailor killed in the December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was reburied in March at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Seaman Apprentice Thomas Hembree was serving aboard the seaplane tender USS *Curtiss* when it was struck by a Japanese bomb, killing 21 sailors aboard. All but two of the dead crewmen — Hembree and Seaman First Class Wilson A. Rice — were accounted for following the attack. The U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii identified Hembree's remains.

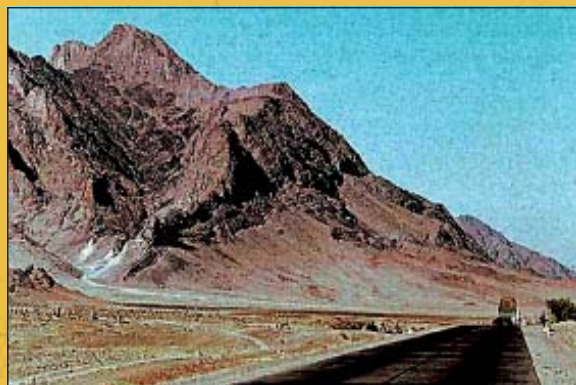




Even today, many roadways in rural Afghanistan are little more than rock-strewn tracks through the rugged terrain.



Corps Road Modernization



This completed section of the Corps-built highway linked Kandahar with Herat.

DURING the 1960s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mediterranean Division oversaw a program to modernize Afghanistan's road system, a rudimentary 1,700-mile circular route of rock-bed and dirt linking principal towns.

The Afghanistan Area Office of the Mediterranean Division's Gulf District was established at Kabul and the district opened a resident office in Kandahar in January 1961 to supervise the construction.

The highway project began with the construction of a 96-mile spur from Kandahar to the border with Pakistan at Spin Buldak. Although this road was completed relatively quickly and without too many hassles, the building of the 300-mile road from Kabul to Kandahar posed another challenge.

Numerous problems plagued work crews, including a border clash between Afghanistan and Pakistan that ultimately restricted construction for several years and required the contractor to develop alternate routes for transporting equipment and supplies, principally through Mashhad, Iran, to Herat, and then on to Kandahar. The road was finally completed in the summer of 1966.

The final phase of the highway

project was the completion of a 75-mile road from Herat to Islam Qala on the Iranian frontier. The project cost more than \$70 million.

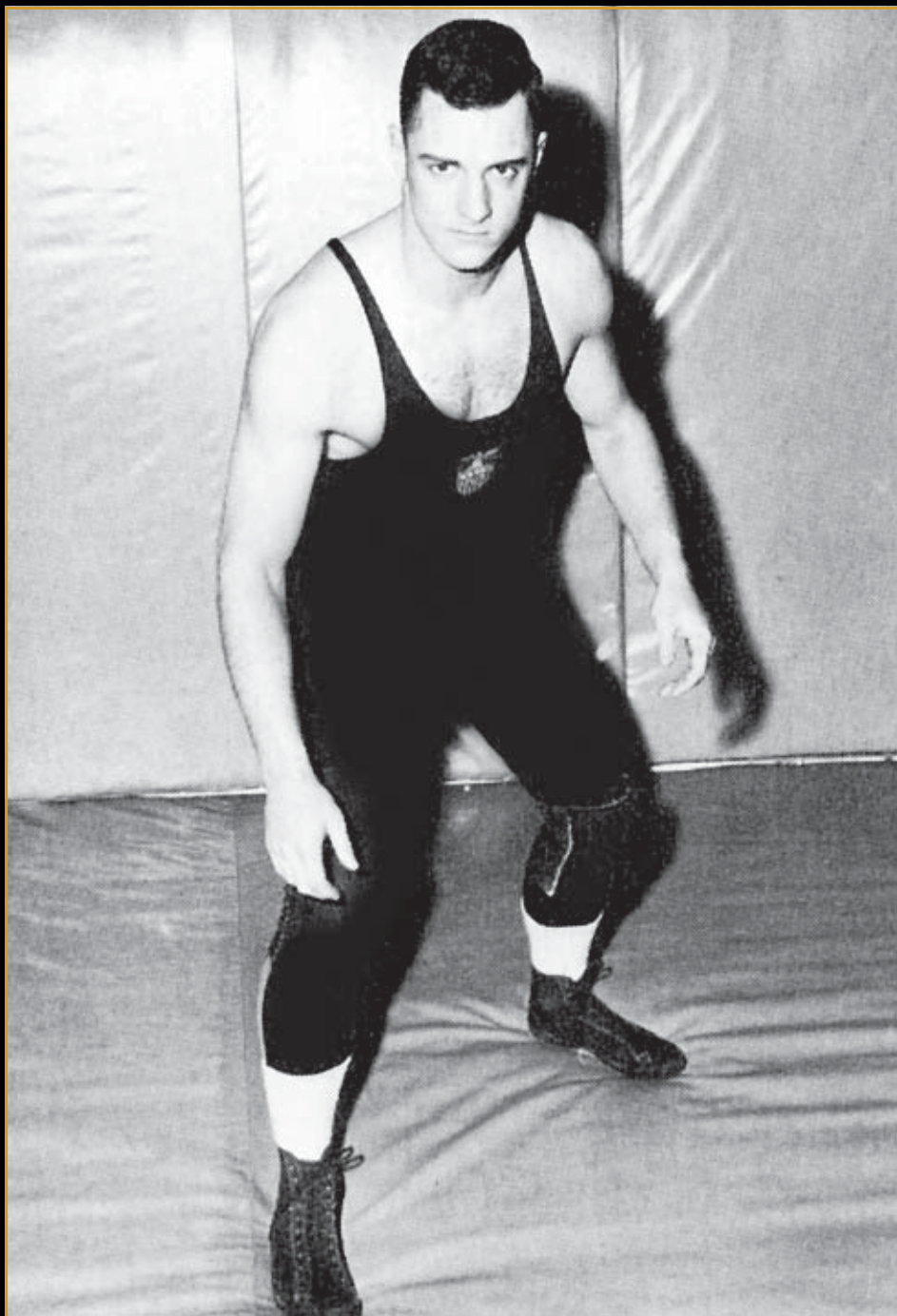
Although the Corps played a major role in providing Afghanistan with a modern highway, the system never realized the full aspirations Corps planners had for it. After 1979, the road network was used by Soviet forces during their invasion and occupation of the country, and ultimately fell into disrepair.

During the 1960s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mediterranean Division oversaw a program to modernize Afghanistan's rudimentary road links between principal cities and towns.



Building this section of the highway, from Kabul to Kandahar, first required the laying of a special subbase layer across miles of forbidding desert.

Text provided by USACE Office of History.



CARL ROBERT ARVIN

Carl R. Arvin was the Cadet First Captain (the highest-ranking cadet) and wrestling team captain during his senior year at West Point. The Ypsilanti, Mich., native was killed in action in Vietnam on Oct. 8, 1967. He was posthumously awarded two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart.

